

Serial No. 10/656,730

PATENT  
Attorney Docket: P10524.00CLAIMS

The following list of claims replaces all prior listings of the claims and indicates the current status of all pending claims in the application.

13. (Currently amended) A method for making a metal stent, comprising:
  - (a) compounding a mixture comprising at least one metal alloy and at least one polymer binder;
  - (b) molding the mixture to form a composite structure comprising a strut member and a supporting member;
  - (c) removing the binder from the composite structure; and
  - (d) sintering the composite structure to achieve at least about 95% of the theoretical density of the metal alloy.
14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising removing at least a portion of the supporting member from the sintered composite structure.
15. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 13 or 14, further comprising etching the surface of the stent.
16. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 13 or 14, further comprising heating the stent to alter a surface or mechanical property of the stent.
17. (Currently amended) A method for making a modulated stent, comprising:
  - (a) compounding a mixture comprising at least one metal alloy and at least one polymer binder;
  - (b) molding the mixture to form two or more composite structures, each composite structure comprising a strut member and a supporting member;
  - (c) removing the binder from each of the composite structures;
  - (d) sintering the composite structures to achieve at least about 95% of the theoretical density of the metal alloy;

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- (e) aligning two or more of the sintered composite structures on a mandrel;
- (f) fastening the composite structures together to form the modulated stent;  
and
- (g) removing the modulated stent from the mandrel.

18. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 17 or 20, further comprising etching the surface of the stent.

19. (Previously presented) The method as in claims 17 or 20, further comprising heating the stent to alter a surface or mechanical property of the stent.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising removing at least a portion of the supporting member from the sintered composite structures either before the composite structures are aligned on the mandrel or after the modulated stent is removed from the mandrel.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising placing at least one metal powder on the surface of the stent before heating.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising placing at least one metal powder on the surface of the stent before heating.